







HAMILTON COUNTY COALITION to **STOP** FRAUD, SCAMS & ABUSE



Don't fall victim to these HOME REPAIR SCAMS!

This summer, you may be approached by a door-to-door salesperson looking to fix up your house, driveway or yard...but beware! Before you agree to any home improvement project, **be on the lookout for these red flags** that you may be encountering a scam:

-  Is the contractor using 'left over' supplies from a nearby job?
-  Is the discounted price **only good today**?
-  Are you being pressured to immediately sign a contract or turn over money?
-  Is the offer too good to be true?



Protect yourself!

Don't make any snap decisions, sign any contracts or pay any upfront fees for work without careful review of all the paperwork. Take their contact information, and tell them that YOU will call THEM if you're interested.

Do your research, and only do business with a reputable contractor with a good rating from Better Business Bureau.



*Select the **right contractor for the job** with these tips
from the Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati:*

1. Compile a list of home remodeling ideas and draft a budget for the work.
2. Look for a professional remodeler or contractor to help plan the project. Check out the local HBA's roster of reputable remodeling contractors at www.cincybuilders.com, and ask friends and neighbors for suggestions.
3. Check the references and background of the remodeler. Research with Better Business Bureau, www.cincinnati.bbb.org, contact references and check that they are members of the local HBA.
4. **Agree on a contract.** Only sign a contract that spells out the full scope of the work and its cost. Ensure the contractor has insurance coverage and ask about any warranties on the work. Avoid contractors who request a significant down payment for work upfront.
5. Take advantage of federal energy efficiency tax credits.



For more information on how to
DETECT, PREVENT and REPORT
consumer fraud, identity theft and scams, visit
www.hamilton-co.org/fraud.

**To report a scam, call (513) 421-3015 and your local police department.*



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